chulha is about 20% as compared to 5% to 10% in traditional chulhas.

(2) Elimination of black smoke from the kitchens resulting in great improvement in the health of women and general cleanliness and upgradtion of the environment.

(3) Reduction in the drudgery of women since the amount of fuel to be gathered is reduced as also the time required for cleaning kitchen and utensils is reduced.

(4) General of employment at the local level in construction/installation of chulhas.

Since inception of the programme till end of March, 1988 over 40 lakh improved chulhas have already been installed all over the country which are expected to be saving about 28 lakh tonnes of firewood equivalent valued at about Rs. 112 crores per annum.

Setting up of advisory council for Oil and Natural Gas Commission

*15. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Advisory Council has been set up by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what will be its functions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Oil and Natural Gas Commission has set up 3 Advisory Councils on exploration strategy, human resources development and management and corporate policies for getting expert advice in these areas.

Prices of Petrol and High Speed Diesel in India

*16. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Petrol and High Speed Diesel is costliest in India as compared to other countries of the world;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cost of petrol has decreased all over the world; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for continuous increase in price of petrol and other petroleum products in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Digital automatic telephone exchange at Cuttack

*17. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up 1000 line capacity digital Automatic Telephone Exchange at Cuttack in Orissa; and

(b) what are the main features of the proposal and steps taken to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) A 1000 line

digital trunk automatic exchange has been installed and commissioned at Cuttack on 31st January, 1988. The exchange has enabled connections of the following stations to the National Subscriber dialling network:

Angul, Balasore, Baripada, Berhampur, Bhubaneshwar, Chattarpur, Cuttack, Dhenkannal, Pradeep, Puri and Sambalpur.

Setting up of Solar Power Stations

*118. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that technology to set up Solar Power Stations is available in the country and a complete project report has also been prepared for this purpose;

(b) whether efforts will be made to set up at least one such Power Station in each State;

(c) whether any long term plan has been drawn up in this regard and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether provision for a Solar Power Station for Bihar has been made and if so, by when and where this will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Power can be generated from solar energy either through the photovoltaic route or the thermal route. A few small solar power stations based on these two technologies have been installed for purpose of experiment and demonstration. Capability for designing and installing solar power stations is available in the country though some specialised equipment will need to be imported initially. A project report for a 30 MW Solar Thermal power plant has been prepared.

(b) and (c) A paper, titled "Energy 2001: Perspective Plan — "Non-Conventional Energy Sources" has been prepared by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. An aggregate capacity of 2000 MW based on solar power generation has been proposed by the turn of the century, the achievement of which will, however, depend on the provision of financial resources. The selection of best locations for solar power stations depends on several factors such as solar radiation and other site conditions.

(d) No proposal has been received for a Solar Power Station in Bihar.

Oil wells dug in Cauvery basin

*119. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many oil wells have been dug in the Cauvery basin so far;

(b) the details of each well, including its cost and depth and whether oil has been struck or not and if so, what is the rate of production;

(c) how many oil wells are expected to be dug in the Cauvery basin during the Eighth Five Year Plan and what are the details thereof;

(d) how much oil is expected to be produced in the Cauvery basin by the end of the Eigth Plan; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to set up an oil refinery in the Cauvery basin; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) 63 wells (38 on land and 25 offshore) have been